



California Child Welfare Council

Dependency Drug Courts

September 10, 2014


**Panel Presenters: Honorable Elizabeth Lee,
Phil Breitenbucher, MSW, and Robert Friend, LCSW**



Overview - Dependency Drug Courts

Presenter: Honorable Elizabeth Lee

Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo



What are Dependency Drug Courts and How are They Different?

- Devoted to **cases of child abuse and neglect that involve substance abuse** by the child's parents and/or other caregivers
- Focused on safety and welfare of the child while giving parents tools needed to become sober, responsible caregivers
- Utilizes a **multidisciplinary team approach** to assess the family's situation, devising **comprehensive case plans** that address needs of children and parents

A baby with dark hair and eyes, wearing a white shirt with colorful polka dots, is sitting in a white plastic tray. The baby is holding two alphabet blocks: an orange one with the letter 'a' and a blue one with the letter 'b'. A green block with the letter 'c' is on the tray in front of the baby. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

**Common Vision
Extraordinary Effort
Shared Leadership**

3 Systems with multiple:

- Mandates
- Timing
- Training
- Methods
- Values

**Court
Drug Treatment
Child Welfare**

WHAT IS SUCCESS IN DEPENDENCY DRUG COURT?

SHARED OUTCOMES

Safety (CWS)

- Reduce re-entry into foster care
- Decrease recurrence of abuse/neglect

Permanency (Court)

- Reduce time to reunification
- Reduce time to permanency
- Reduce days in care

Recovery (AOD)

- Increase engagement and retention in treatment
- Increase number of clean UA's
- Increase number of graduates
- Decrease recidivism



346 FDCs nationwide

Source – NADCP, 2014



Dependency Drug Courts — What Do We Know

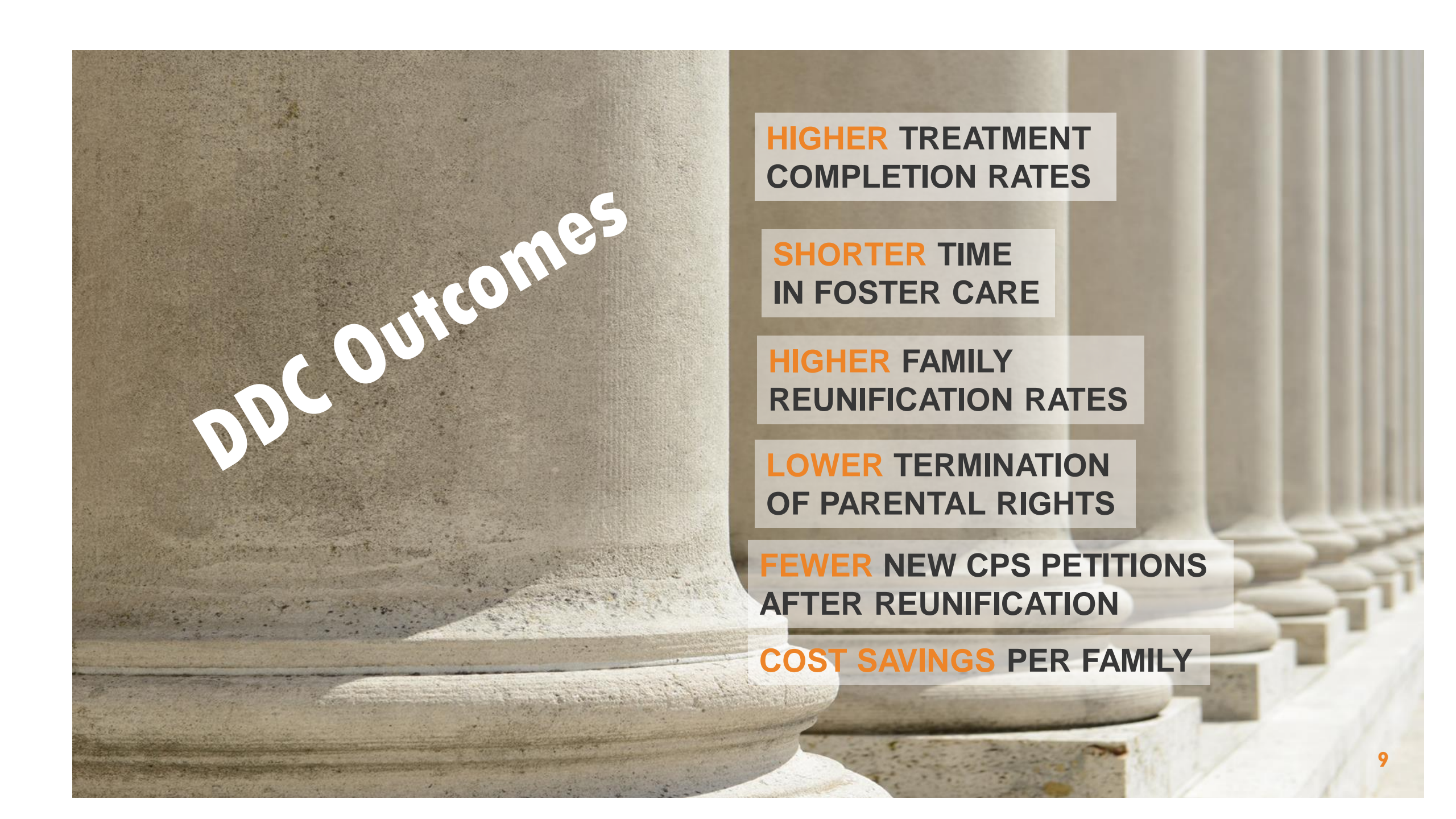
Presenter: Phil Breitenbucher, MSW

Family Drug Court Project Director, Children and Family Futures

Common Ingredients of FDCs

6

- System of identifying families
- Earlier access to assessment and treatment services
- Increased judicial oversight
- Increased management of recovery services and compliance
- Responses to participant behaviors (sanctions & incentives)
- Collaborative approach across service systems and Court



DDC Outcomes

HIGHER TREATMENT
COMPLETION RATES

SHORTER TIME
IN FOSTER CARE

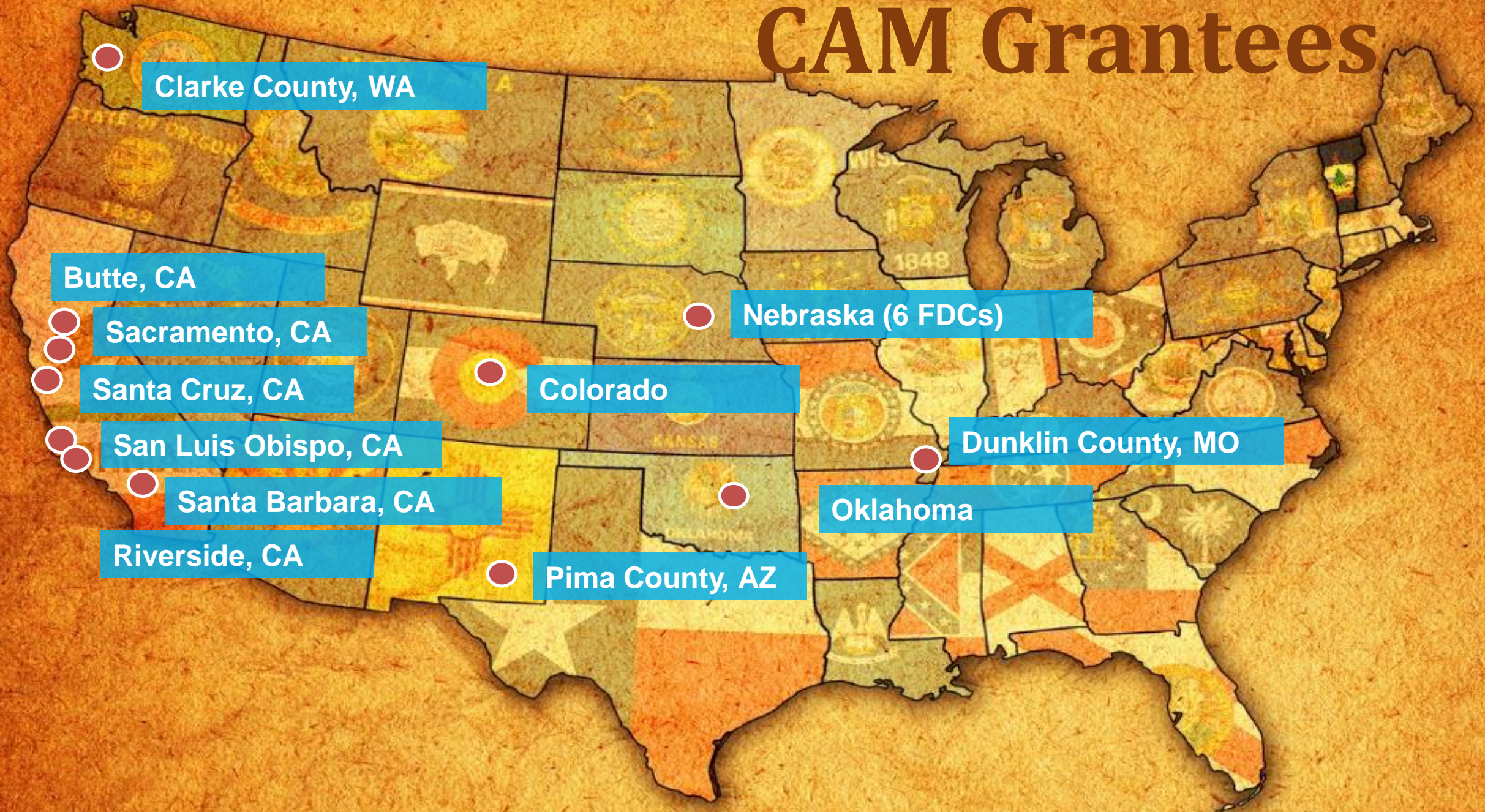
HIGHER FAMILY
REUNIFICATION RATES

LOWER TERMINATION
OF PARENTAL RIGHTS

FEWER NEW CPS PETITIONS
AFTER REUNIFICATION

COST SAVINGS PER FAMILY

CAM Grantees



Clarke County, WA

Butte, CA

Sacramento, CA

Santa Cruz, CA

San Luis Obispo, CA

Santa Barbara, CA

Riverside, CA

Colorado

Nebraska (6 FDCs)

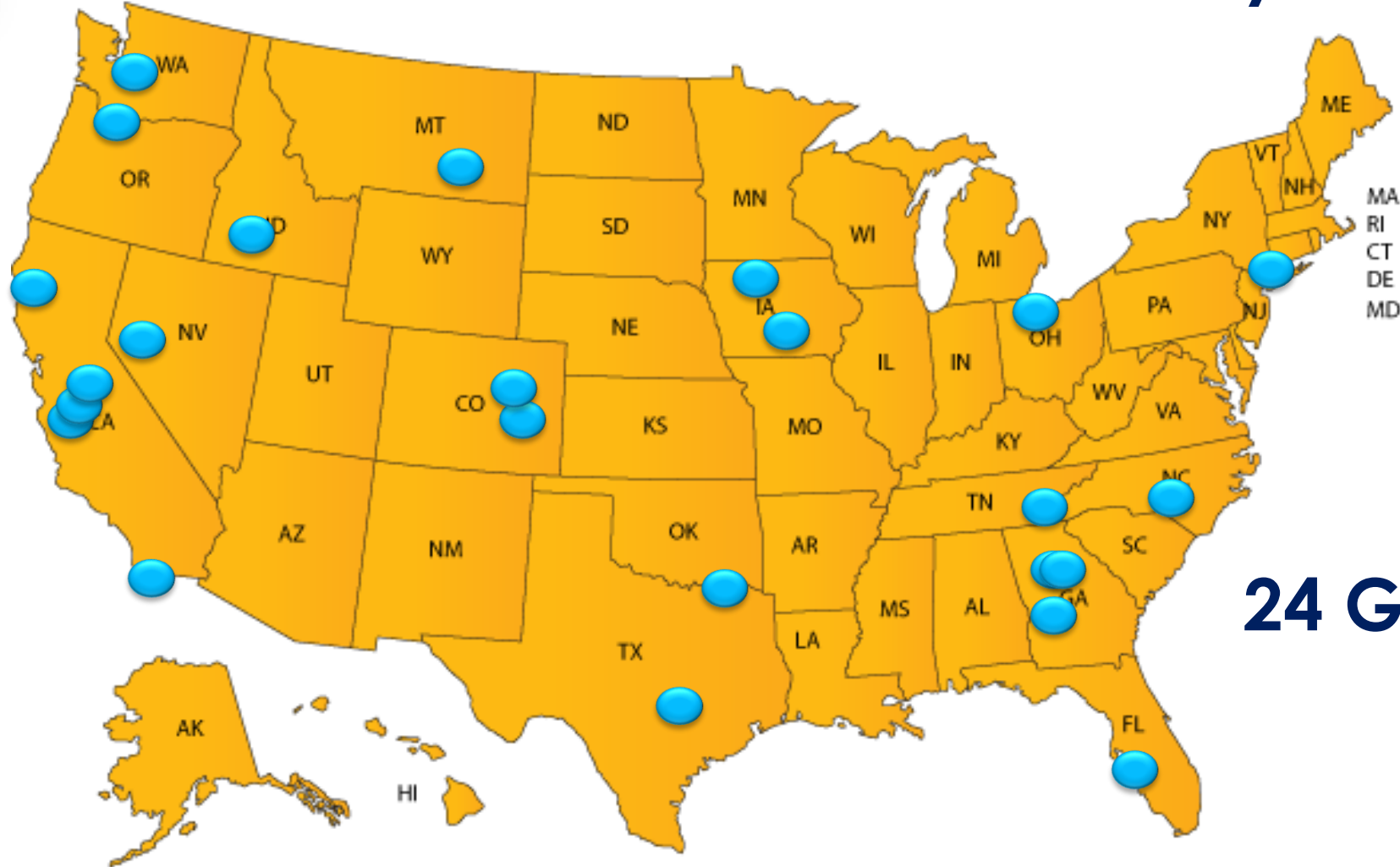
Dunklin County, MO

Oklahoma

Pima County, AZ



Regional Partnership Grants Family Drug Courts

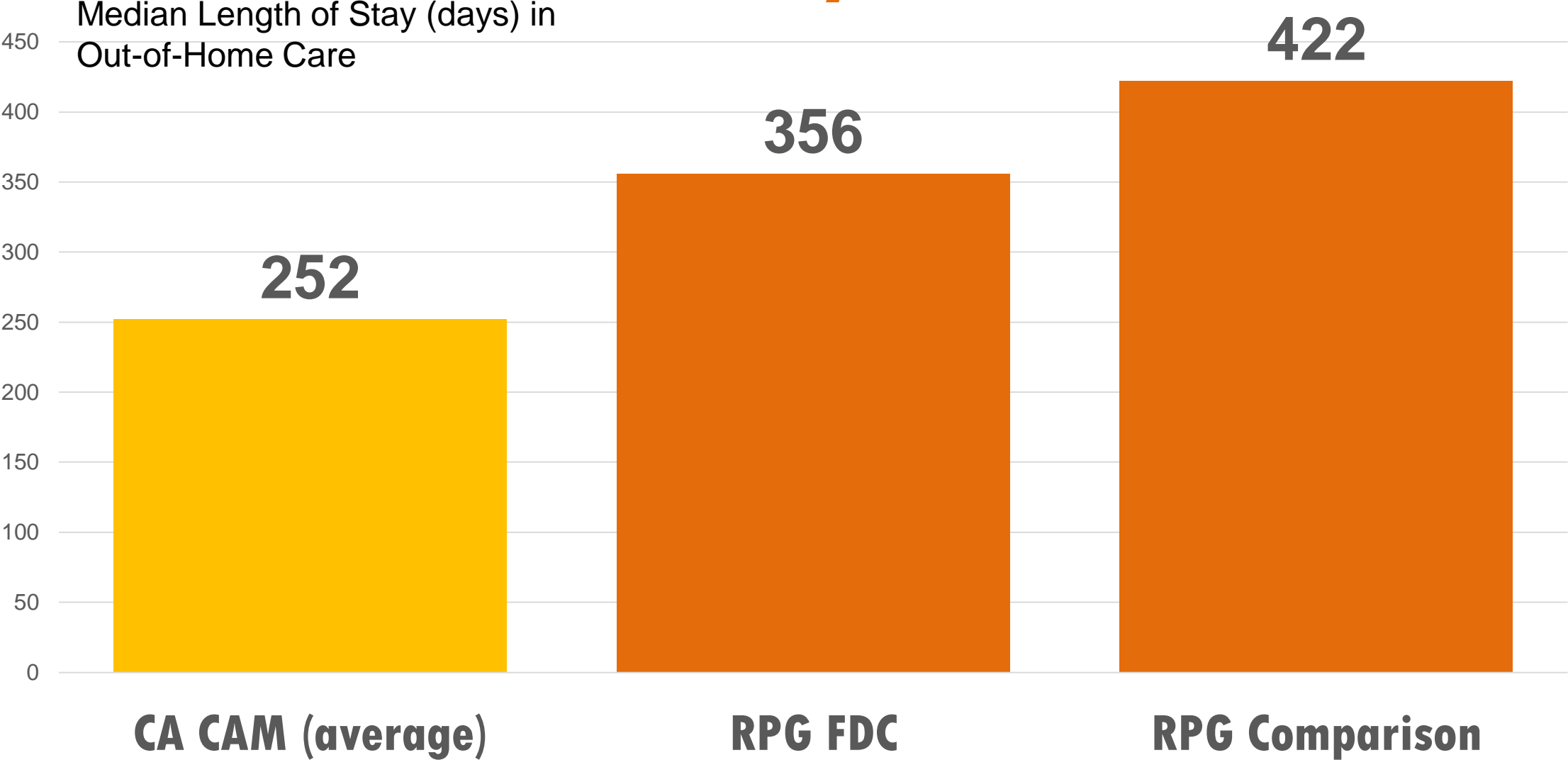


24 Grantee Sites

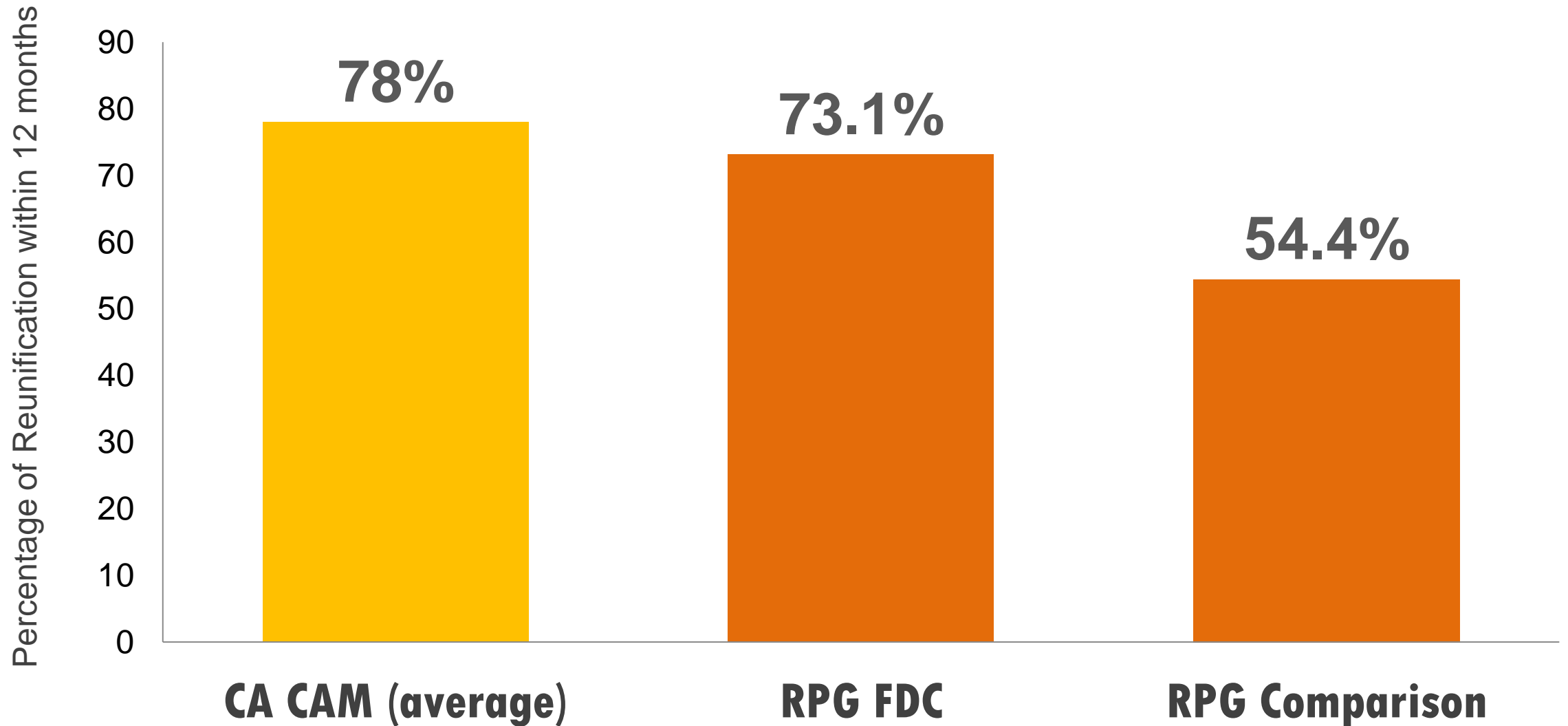
RPG FDC

- 5,200 children
- 8,000 adults

Days in Foster Care

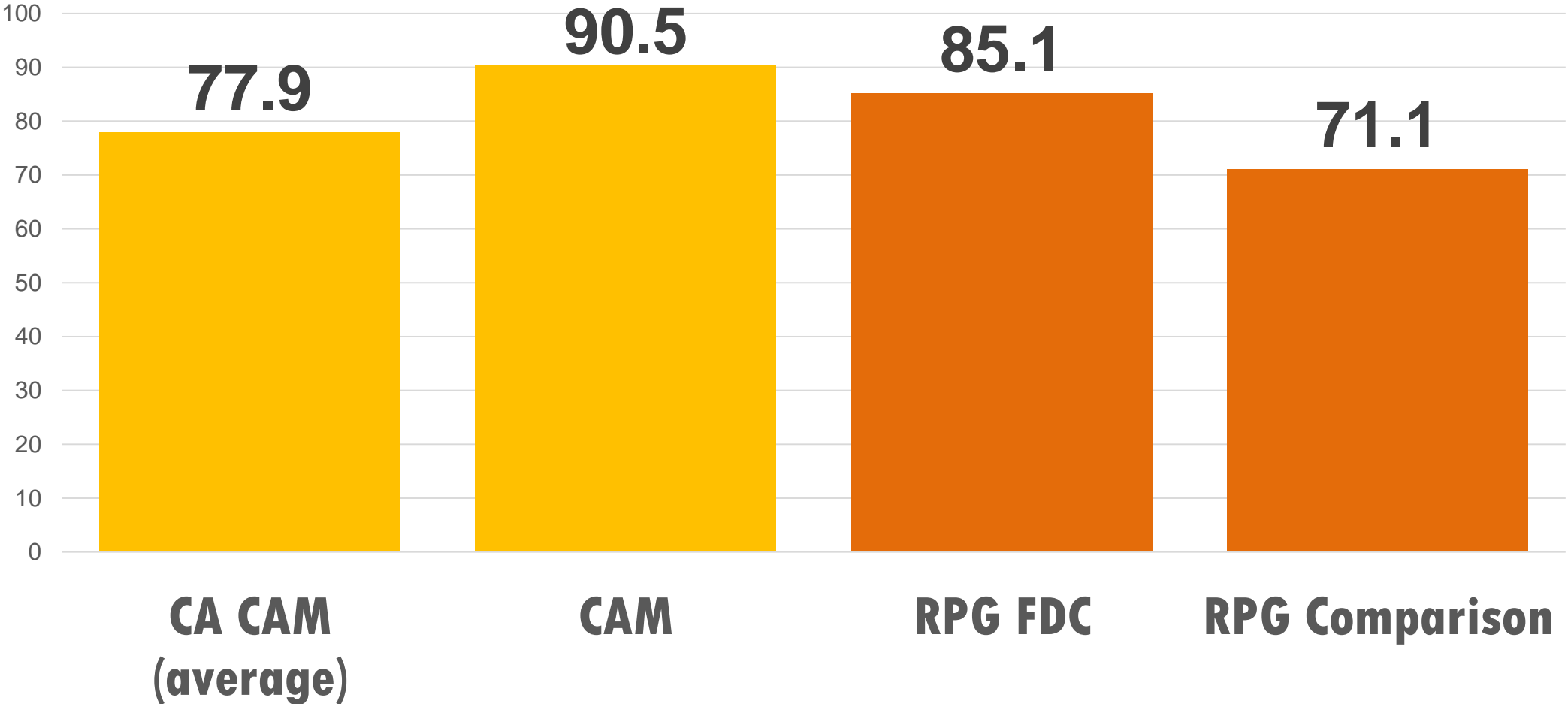


Reunification Rates within 12 Months

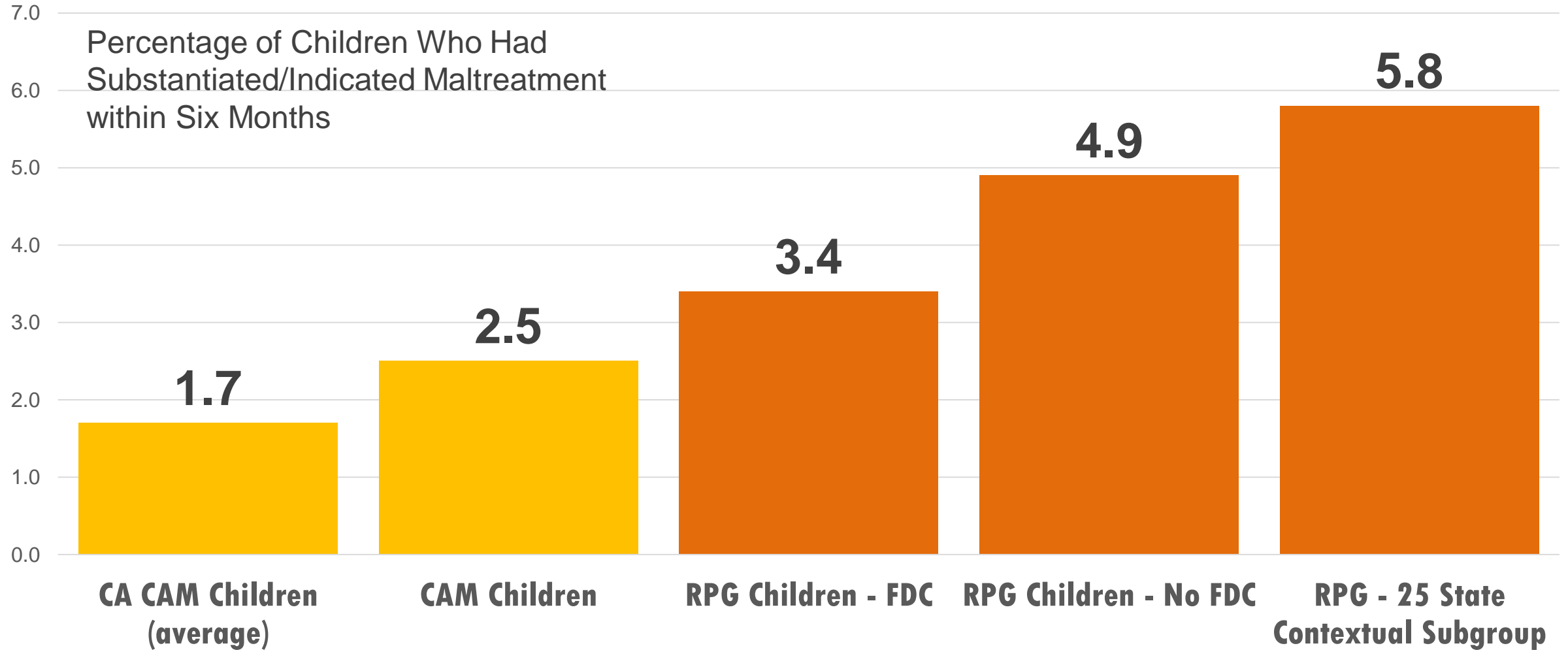


Remained in Home

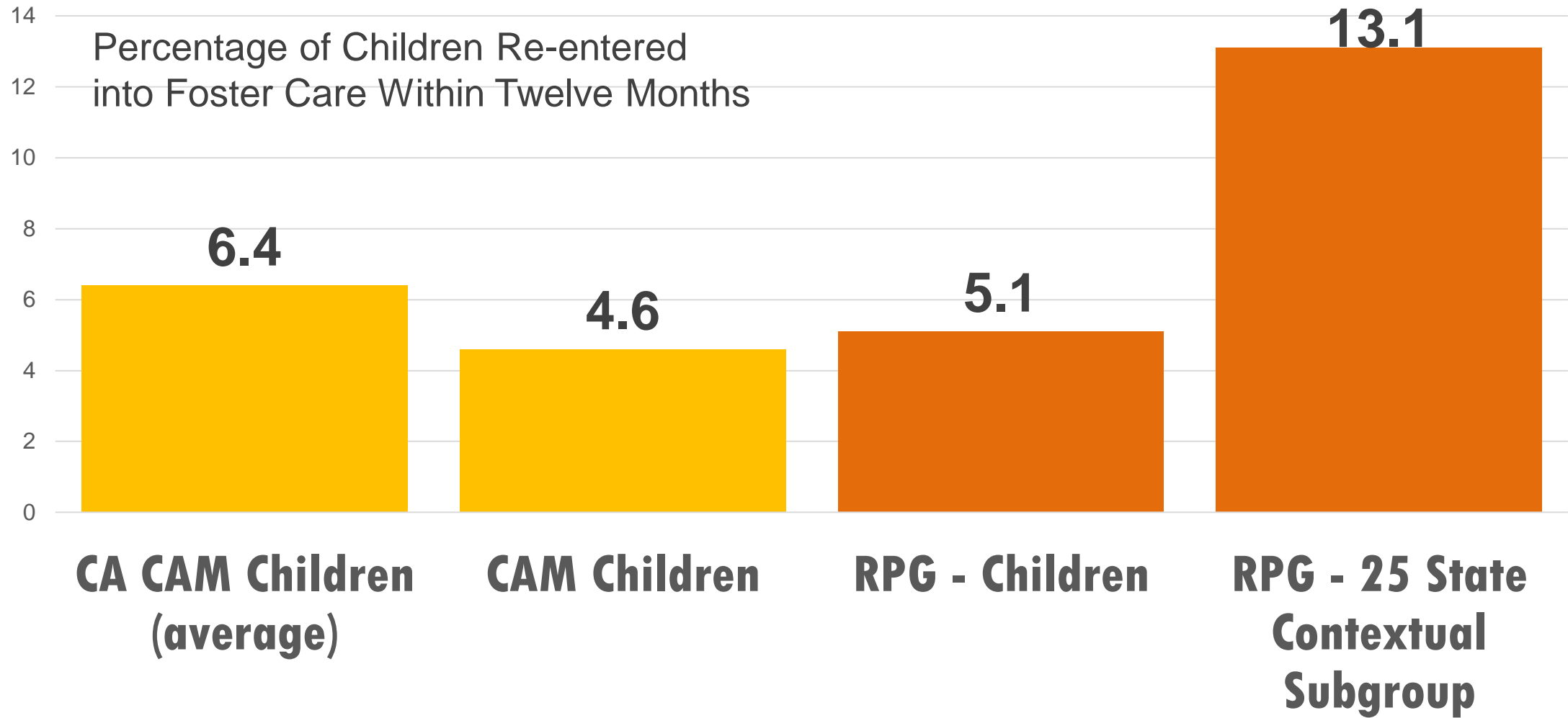
Percentage of Children Who Remain at Home Throughout Program Participation



Recurrence of Child Maltreatment

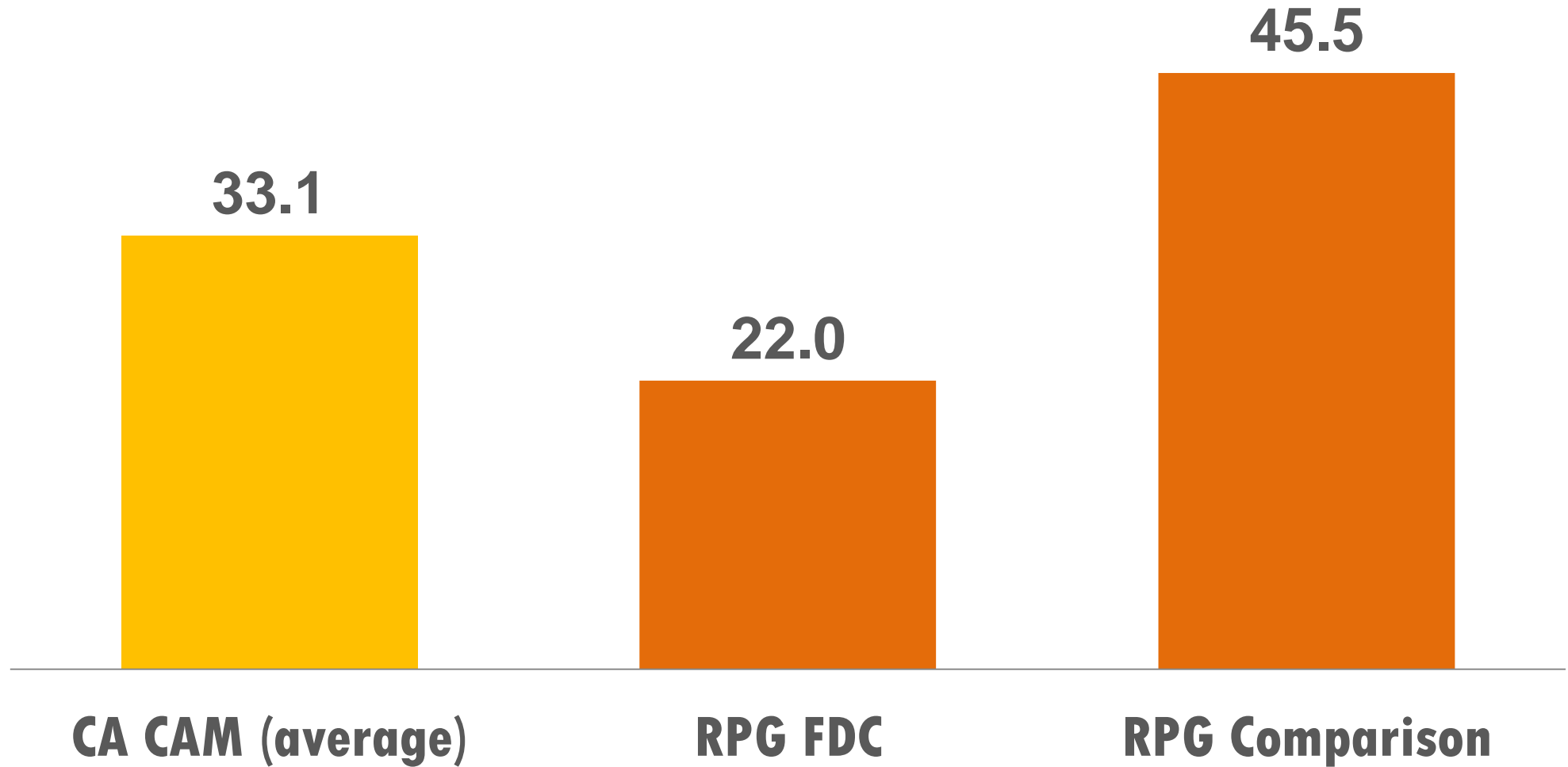


Re-entries into Foster Care

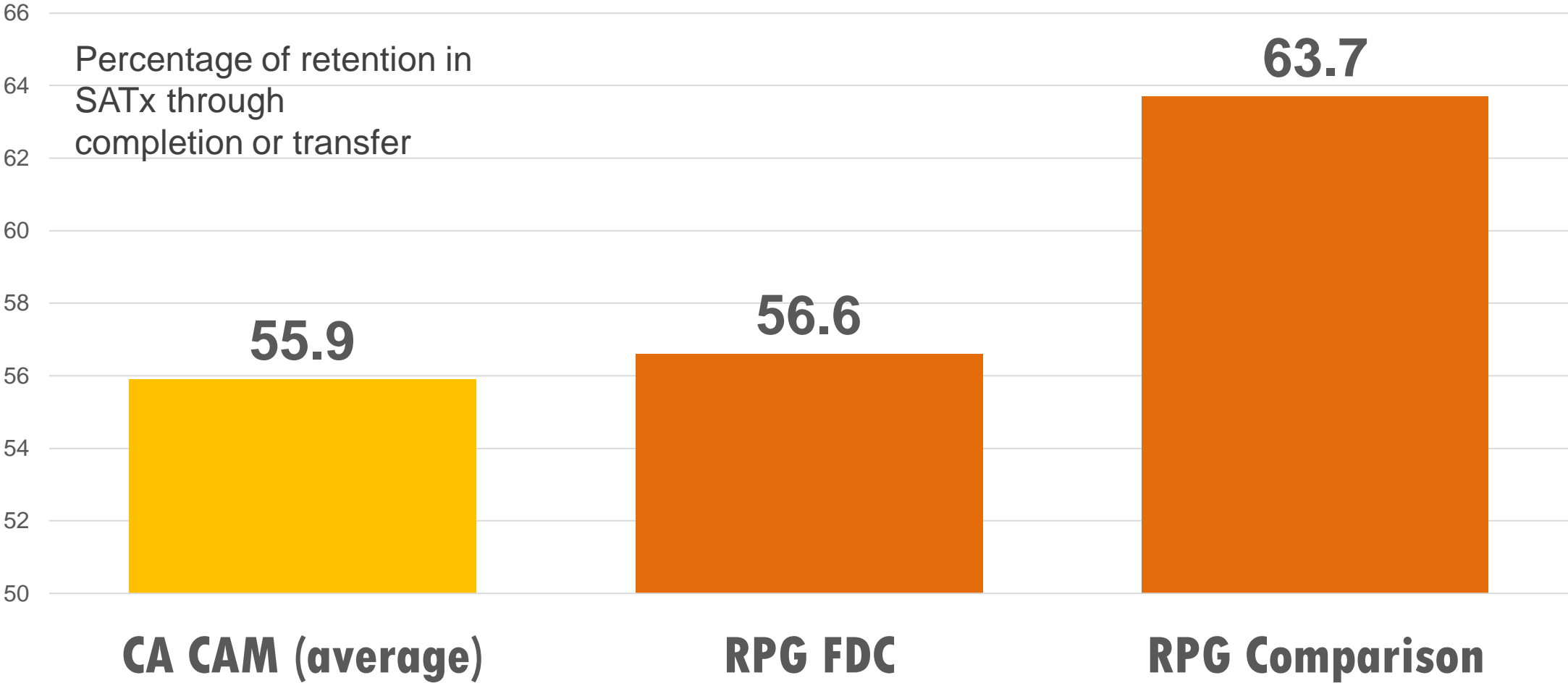


Access to Treatment

Median # of days to admission



Treatment Completion Rates



A young child is shown from the side, wearing a bright orange t-shirt, a green cape, and a yellow sash. They are holding a thin white string that extends towards the right side of the frame. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

No magic wands, but a range of tools

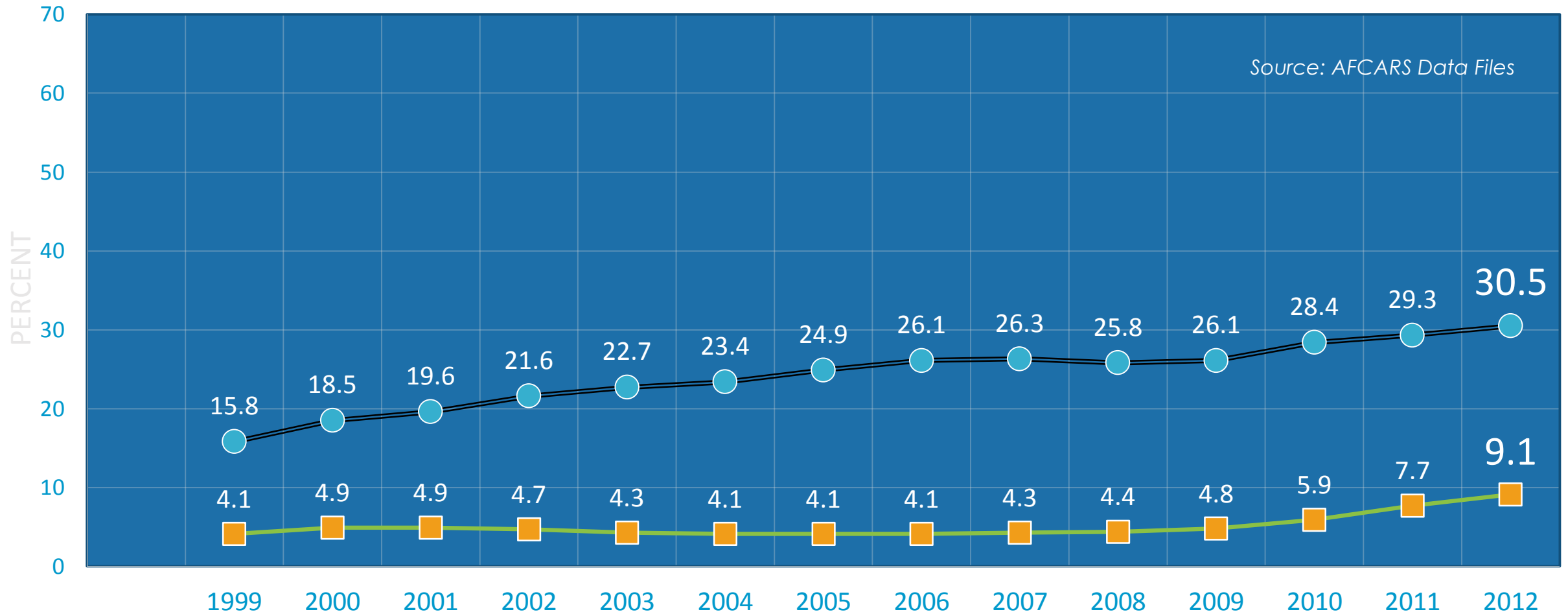
- Leadership and champions
- Information systems
- Screening, assessment and engagement strategies
- Best practice
- Resources and Finances

Prevalence of the Issue

How many children in the child welfare system have a parent in need of treatment?

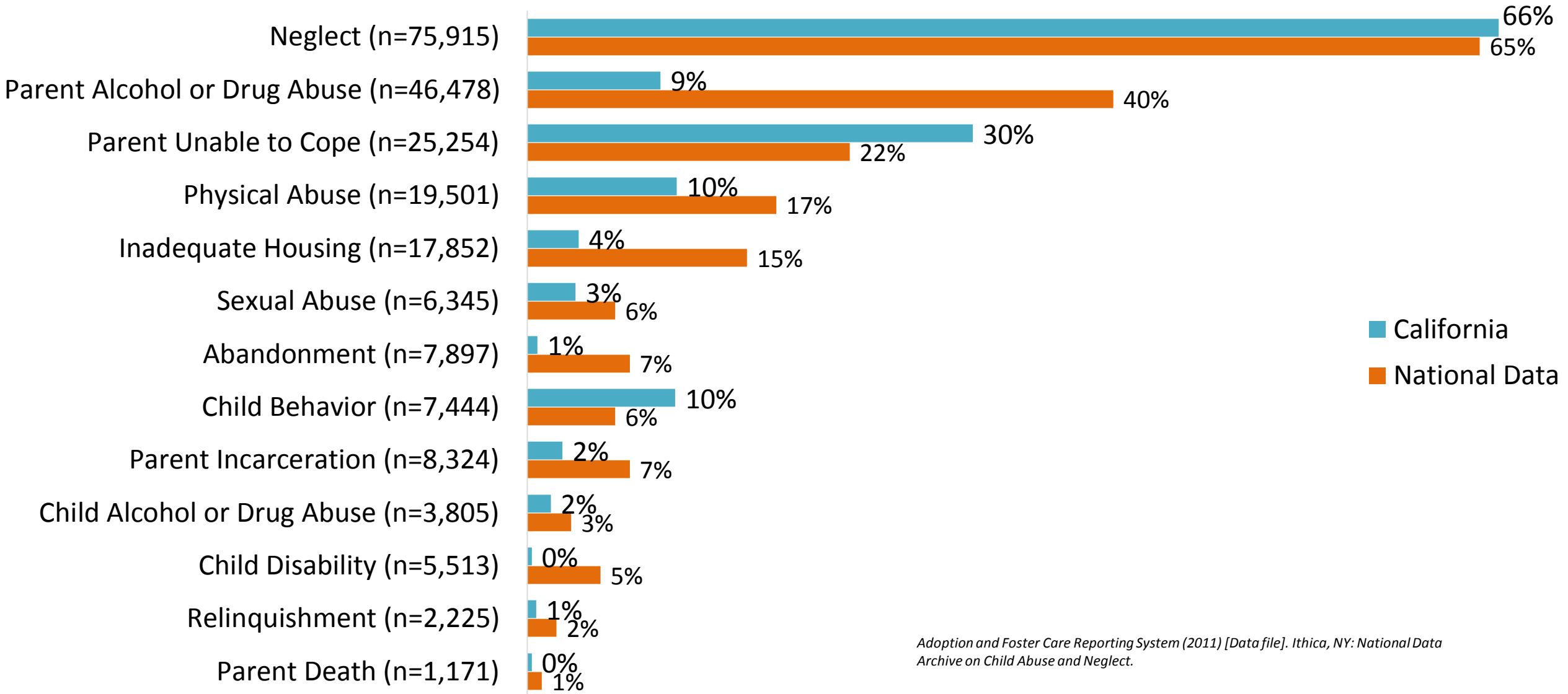
- Between 60–80% of substantiated child abuse and neglect cases involve substances by a custodial parent or guardian (Young, et al, 2007)
- 61% of infants, 41% of older children who are in out-of-home care (Wulczyn , Ernst and Fisher, 2011)
- 87% of families in foster care with one parent in need of treatment; 67% with two parents in need (Smith, Johnson, Pears, Fisher, DeGarmo, 2007)

PARENTAL AOD AS REASON FOR REMOVAL IN THE UNITED STATES 1998-2012



● = National Data
■ = California Data

Percent and Number of Children with Terminated Parental Rights by Reason for Removal – 2011



Adoption and Foster Care Reporting System (2011) [Data file]. Ithica, NY: National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect.

Financing Dependency Drug Courts

- **Child Welfare Finance Reform**
- **Title IV-E Waivers**
- **Title 19 Waivers**
- **Affordable Care Act (Medi-Cal Expansion)**
- **Realignment**



Opportunities to Expand Dependency Drug Courts

- Improve data collection for Dependency Drug Courts
- Identify finance opportunities
- Strengthen the collaborative leadership

The background of the slide features a photograph of several classical columns, likely from a government building or courthouse, rendered in a muted, earthy tone. A semi-transparent blue horizontal band is overlaid across the middle of the image, serving as a background for the title text.

Child Welfare Council Committees

Presenter: Robert Friend, LCSW

California Child Welfare Council's Permanency Committee

Child Welfare Council Committees

Permanency

Data

Sub-Committee

Dependency Drug Court

**Early
Intervention
and Prevention**

**Transition to
Adulthood**



Questions & Discussion